A Wooden State.

Recent surveys show that over one-sixth of the State of Oregon, something over 10,000,000 acres, is covered with dense forests.

Chinchilla fur is the finest and most delicate of all furs, and is generally of a pearly French gray tone. The animal, one of the rodent family, is only nine inches long, making the skin, size considered, very valuable.

Man is made of dust—or at least some wives think their husbands are.

ANNUAL LOSS BY FIRE.

It Has Been Very Much Reduced by Improved Methods of Fighting Fire.

Mr. Charles T. Hill, the artist, who has been writing a series of papers for St. Nicholas on the New York Fire Department, has a final paper on "The Fire Patrol." Mr. Hill says:

The annual loss by fire in the United States amounts to one hundred millions of dollars, and fully one-half of this loss is caused by the water used in extinguishing the fires. Before the introduction, in 1872, of controlling or shut-off nozzles used on the fire-hose, the percentage of loss by water was even greater—at least two-thirds of the total loss. Previous to the intruduction of this much-needed device, there was used what was known as an "open pipe," a plain open nozzle, with no contrivance for shutting off the waater. When it was necessary to shut off, the order had to be pased to the engineer, sometimes a long distance from the fire; and unless the nozzles could be thrust from a convenient window, the water would go pouring out, spreading destruction in all directions. In small fires, especially in "up stairs" fires in private dwellings, or in business houses stocked with perishable goods, such as feathers, silks, etc., the unnecessary destruction of property was very great.

To-day, fires are fought much more scientifically, and with a great deal more system, than were those of ten or twenty years ago; and officers in command of engine companies are usually very careful not to use any more water than is absolutely necessary. Nearly every hose-wagon in the New York Fire Department to-day carries three sizes of hose—the regulation size, 2½ inch, used at all ordinary fires; 3-inch (known as "third-alarm hose," and only used at fires of considerable magnitude), and a small hose carried on a reel under the wagon. This hose is 1½ inches in diameter, and very easy to handle, and on account of the ease with which any number of lengths of it can be carried about, it is that oftenest used at small fires in dwelling-houses, office-buildings, and flats. With a controlling nozzle on the end, the fireman can dash up several flights of stairs and into a bedroom or closet, and extinguish a small fire before it has time to spread, using the water only where it is absolutely needed. To drag the regulation size (it weighs about eighty pounds to the length) up and around winding stairways, etc., would take much longer, and perhaps give a fire time to get just beyond the point of easy control; besides, when the water is finally started, a great deal more is used by this hose than is necessary, especially in the case of a small fire. It has been practically demonstrated that a considerable amount of fire can be extinguished with a small amount of water applied effectively, and the use of the small hose has done much to reduce the damage by water at fires in dwellings and flats.

Cupolas Made of Paper.

Paper cupolas for building are remarkable for their lightness. A cupola of that kind consists of from twenty-four to thirty separate pieces, and is produced over a wooden model by pasting huge rolls of suitable paper one over the other. Every separate piece runs from the base to the top of the hemispherical roof of the cupola, thus forms a vault-like strip which is broad at the bottom and narrow at the top.

For the production of these separate parts of the cupola roll paper of very good quality is used, which is first cut, says the Philadelphia Record, into the requisite length and breadth, then moistened and sretched over the wooden model. Upon the first strip is pasted another, also moistened, over this a third, and so on until the necessary thickness is reached. The moistened strips of paper adhere firmly to each other and retain their concave shape, and after being dried constitute hard, resisting pieces, which are made weatherproof by oiling, polishing with hot irons, asphalting and varnishing, and are then put together in the shape of a round cupola.

CAMPHOR TREE CULTURE

INTERESTING CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Great Importance of the Product—Possibilities of Growth of the Evergreen in Southern Sections of the United States—Its Many Uses.

One of the most recent additions to the literature issued by the department of agriculture is a circular descriptive of the camphor tree. It is referred to as a broad-leaf evergreen, related to the red bay and sassafras of the United States. In its native habitat it obtains a height of sixty to one hundred feet, with widespreading branches and a trunk twenty to forty inches in diameter.

The tree is native in the coast countries of eastern Asia from Cochin China nearly to the mouth of the Yang-tse-Kiang, and on the adjacent islands, from the southern part of the Japanese empire, including Formosa, under the Ryukyu Islands to Hainan, off the Cochin China coast. The trees grow wild in the native range, and are usually most abundant on the hillsides and in mountain valleys, where there is good atmospheric as well as soil drainage. The temperature in the greater part of this region, which is partly within the tropics and partly subtropical, rarely falls below freezing. The trees and evergreen change their leaves generally in April, and therefore the winter temperature is of far more importance than would be the case with a deciduous tree. It bears small, greenish white flowers, from February to April, and, the following October, very light one-seeded fruits about three-eighths of an inch in diameter.

At Charleston, Summerville and Augusta the trees have withstood a minimum temperature of 15 degrees Fahrenheit, but they have been protected by surrounding trees and buildings.

The most northern localities in the United States, so far as known by the department, where the camphor tree has been successfully grown out of doors, are Charleston and Summerville, S. C.; Augusta, Ga., and Oakland, Cal. Notwithstanding the comparatively narrow limits of its natural environment, the camphor tree grows well in cultivation under widely different conditions. It has become abundantly naturalized in Madagascar. It flourishes at Buenos Ayres. It thrives in Egypt, in the Canary Islands, in southeastern France and in the San Joaquin valley in California, where the summers are hot and dry.

While the camphor tree will grow on almost any soil that is not too wet, it does best on a well drained sandy or loamy soil, and it responds remarkable well to the application of fertilizers. Its growth is comparatively slow on sterile soils, but under favorable conditions it sometimes grows very rapidly. Under favorable conditions an average of thirty feet in height, with trunks six to eight inches in diameter at the base, may be expected in trees ten years from the seed.

The principal commercial uses of the camphor tree are for the production of camphor gum and camphor oil. Camphor gum is employed extensively in medicine. It enters into the composition of many kinds of liniments for external application. For liniment it is used especially in combination with olive oil. It is taken internally for hysteria, nervousness, nervous headaches and diseases affecting the alimentary canal. It is a specific in cases of typhoid fever and cholera. Camphor fumes have been used with success in cases of asthma. It has been used very extensively to keep insects out of furs, woolens, etc. In Japan camphor and camphor oil are used in lacquer work. The oil is somewhat similar to turpentine, and could doubtless be used to advantage in varnishes and shellacs. It is now used in the manufacture of toilet soaps. In Japan and China it has been used for illuminating purposes, but it produces a smoky flame.

Among the secondary uses of the camphor tree the most important is for ornamental planting. Its bright evergreen leaves, rapid growth and long life make it valuable for this purpose. In Japan and China it has been the principal tree planted in the temple courts for many centuries, and in these countries it takes the place of the historic oaks of England. It has been extensively introduced into Southern Europe and South America for ornamental purposes.

The wood, with its close grain, yellow color and susceptibility to polish, taking a kind of satin-like finish, is exceedingly valuable in cabinet work, especially for making drawers, chests and cupboards proof against insects. The leaves and young branches, although they have but a slight odor of camphor, are packed with clothing or scattered about unused rooms to guard against insects.

The tree produces an abundance of berry-like fruits, which are used in Japan and China to make a kind of tallow. The fruits are greedily eaten by chickens and birds, especially mocking-birds, which often select camphor trees for nesting places.

For most of the secondary purposes the camphor tree may well be cultivated wherever it can be made to live; but for the distillation of gum and oil with a commercial view, and for the production of wood for cabinet purposes, it must be grown under the most favorable conditions. The minimum winter temperature should not be below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and this minimum should be of rare occurrence. The soil, perfectly sandy and well drained, should be irrigated unless there are abundant rains. Fifty inches of water during the warm growing season is desirable, and much more may well be used where the air is very dry.

Camphor trees may be grown either from seed or from cuttings. They are usually grown from seed, as the trees fruit abundantly, and seedlings can be grown more easily than cuttings. The seeds are collected at maturity in October and November, and after drying are packed in sharp white sand or some similar material to keep them fresh until the time of planting in spring. About the last of March they are sown in drills in the seed bed.

Camphor of good quality has been produced in Florida from the leaves and twigs of trees less than twenty years old, one pound of crude gum being obtained from seventy-seven pounds of leaves and twigs.—New York Advertiser.

ON A RUSSIAN CONVICT SHIP.

Horrors of the Voyage from Odessa to the Island of Saghalin.

The sailing of a Russian convict ship from Odessa for the Island of Saghalin, in the Japan sea, is always an impressive sight. The motley crowd, indigenous to all countries, is of course present, but there are in addition many government officials, full of importance in their emblazoned uniforms, and more numerous members of the clergy attending to perform the ceremony of sprinkling the ship with holy water, and to give the inmates a parting blessing and a godspeed. Nothing is done in Russia without the help of priests, and a Russian is bathed in holy water from the cradle to the grave.

The religious ceremony over, it is with a cargo of heavy hearts that the convict ship—usually built at Glasgow, by the way—weighs anchor and departs, for even a hardened convict would prefer serving his sentence on his native soil to dragging out his existence in a foreign land. But, however that may be, the accommodation for the thousand or more convicts on board is ample, and the arrangements for their well-being complete. The food provided is good and wholesome, and it is not an infrequent thing for people in the saloon—the convict ship carries ordinary passengers as well as state prisoners—to ask for convict soup and rye bread.

All the convicts are in fetters, wrist and ankle bracelets, with a connecting chain. These and their half-shaved heads present a most hideous appearance. The daily routine on board is unvarying; therefore, to change the monotony, the prisoners have resort to all kinds of devices to make the time pass away as pleasantly as the circumstances will allow.

Most lower class Russians are born card players, so the convicts collect all the odd scraps of paper they can lay their hands on. Clubs and spades are roughly scribbled on these slips with the ink supplied for letter writing purposes, while to provide hearts and diamonds of the requisite color, one or more of the company consents to have a vein opened. This delicate operation is performed with the aid of the tin spout of a tea can, ground to a sharp edge on the iron deck. This improvised lancet also does duty as a razor, serving to remove the remaining hair from the head of some devout follower of Islam. The stakes of the card players are knobs of sugar saved by rigorous economy at the tea table. When these fail bones and odds and ends are substituted.

On the fifteenth day at sea the fetters are removed. This is, indeed, a day of rejoicing, and the most hardened criminal gives vent to a sigh of relief at being released from these hateful emblems of bondage.

The coveted freedom is not, however, of long duration. A poor, inoffensive Crimean Tartar accidentally treads on the foot of a regular cutthroat villain, to be seized immediately by the throat. The cry is instantly raised that the Mohammedans are killing the Christians. A general melee ensues, in which racial hatred is given full play. The guard is called out, and, turning on the hot water hose pipes, which are kept ready for any emergency, soon cows the combatants. The ringleader is placed in irons and put on dry bread and water for fourteen days. The Tartar is carried, more dead than alive, to the hospital, and the rest, guilty and innocent alike, are kept in chains and shackles for the rest of the voyage.—London Mail.

Broken Pledges.

"Before we were married you said you wouldn't put an obstacle in my way for the world."

"Did I? Well, perhaps I did."

"And now you are everlastingly sticking your feet out so that I fal over them.'—Chicago Record.

The latest remedy recommended for seasickness is ginger.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

Dr. C. Keller of Zurich asserts that spiders are doing most important work in preserving the forests by protecting trees against devastations on the part of insects.

A power plant on the Big Hole river near Butte, Montana, will develop about six thousand horsepower, which will be transmitted to the town in the form of electricity. It is expected that everything will be in working order by the middle of next winter.

Area being considered, Greece seems to be more a land of earthquakes than Japan. Reports for 1895 appear to show a total of 529 earthquakes for the kingdom, or nearly 1 1-2 a day, no fewer than 306 having been recorded in the island of Zante alone.

The apparatus invented jointly by Lieutenant George E. Squier of the United States army, and Professor A. C. Crehore of Dartmouth college, for telegraphing with an alternating current at an incredible speed has recently been exhibited and tested in England. More than four thousand words a minute were transmitted by land lines, and about thirteen hundred a minute by the submarine cable to Germany. The inventors hope that at least five hundred words a minute can be sent over the Atlantic cable, whose maximum capacity at present is only about one-twelfth of that number of words.

An instructive experience has been reported by the Mexican International railroad. At the burning of their repair shop, at Piedras Negras, the superintendent saw that the building could not be saved, and instructed the fire department to throw no water on it, but to allow all the men available to shovel sand and earth upon the embers covering the fine machine tools. This precaution caused the metal to cool slowly. Few of the tools were warped, nearly all being put to work satisfactorily soon after the fire, whereas most of them would have been completely ruined by drenching with water.

An electric "douche" is recommended for a certain class of patients by a Paris physician. He places a person in a chair upon a broad circular metal plate that has glass legs. This plate is connected with the negative pole of a static, or frictional machine. Over the patient's head is suspended a smaller metallic disk, from whose lower surface project fifty or a hundred sharp points, and which is connected with the positive pole. When the machine is in operation the subject is exposed to an electric spray. The treatment is continued for an interval varying from ten to fifty minutes, according to the nature of the case.

Brought in "Pa's Prayers."

Once upon a time sickness came to the family of the poorly paid pastor of a country church. It was winter and the pastor was in financial straits. A number of his flock decided to meet at his house and offer prayers for the speedy recovery of the sick ones and for material blessings upon the pastor's family. While one of the deacons was offering a fervent prayer for blessings upon the pastor's household there was a loud knock at the door. When the door was opened a stout farmer boy was seen, wrapped up comfortably.

"What do you want, boy?" asked one of the elders.

"I've brought pa's prayers," replied the boy.

"Brought pa's prayers? What do you mean?"

"Yep, brought his prayers, an' they're out in the wagon. Just help me an' we'll get 'em in."

Investigation disclosed the fact that "pa's prayers" consisted of potatoes, flour, bacon, cornmeal, turnips, apples, warm clothing, and a lot of jellies for the sick ones. The prayer meeting adjourned in short order.—Omaha World-Herald.

Living Doll of Hartley.

A living doll dwells in the village of Hartley, England, where she attracts thousands of curious people. The diminutive woman is called Marguerite Suddaby. Born in Yorkshire, of parents of normal stature, she was hardly seven inches long when entering the world. Today, although apparently full grown she is not quite twelve inches high, and her weight is less than two pounds. She has the dimensions of a small doll, and her parents can only dress her with clothing originally intended for dolls. She sleeps in a doll's bed, and is covered with bed clothes of the size of an ordinary letter envelope. "The Living Doll of Hartley," as she is commonly called, is a blonde, with pretty, clear eyes, and rather intelligent. Up to the present her health has never given any cause for apprehension, and nothing is more surprising than to see her dance and run like a marvelous little automaton.—Philadelphia Record.

Only an Old Man's Notion.

"It's a woman, not a man, you see in the moon," shouted the female orator.

"I guess she's 'bout right," interrupted a patriarch in the back part of the hall, "that's the reason the blamed thing's so changeable."—Detroit Free Press.